



- 1825** First juvenile reformatory was established in New York.
- 1899** Illinois legislature created the first separate juvenile court by enacting the Illinois Juvenile Court Act.
- 1905** The TN General Assembly passed the Tennessee Juvenile Court Law, which established juvenile court authority over any child sixteen years of age or under who may be defined as a "neglected child" or a "delinquent child".
- 1945** Juvenile courts had been established in all states.

Tennessee Juvenile Courts

- ◆ Tennessee has 98 courts with juvenile court jurisdiction within the state's 95 counties.
- ◆ Of the 98 courts, Tennessee has 17 "Private Act" juvenile courts (local act establishing a court of specific jurisdiction).
- ◆ The remaining 81 courts are general sessions courts with juvenile jurisdiction.
- ◆ Tennessee had a population of 5,740,021 in the year 2001 (based on 2001 Census estimates).
- ◆ Youth comprise 25% of the total population within the state (1,410,993 - based on 2001 Census estimates).
- ◆ Juvenile courts dealt with 82,636 children based on disposed cases reported to TCJFCJ in 2002.

Juvenile and Youth related Contacts in Tennessee

Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

www.tennessee.gov/tcjcj

Andrew Johnson Tower
710 James Robertson Parkway, 1st Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0810
(615) 741-3980

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth

www.tennessee.gov/tccy

Andrew Johnson Tower
710 James Robertson Parkway, 9th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0800
(615) 741-2633

Tennessee Department of Children Services

www.tennessee.gov/youth

Cordell Hull Building, 7th Floor
436 6th Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-1290
(615) 741-9701

Tennessee Department of Human Services

www.tennessee.gov/humanserv

400 Deaderick St 15th Floor
Nashville, TN 37248-0001
(615) 313-4700

Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

www.tennessee.gov/mental

Cordell Hull Building, 3rd Floor
425 5th Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
(615) 532-6500

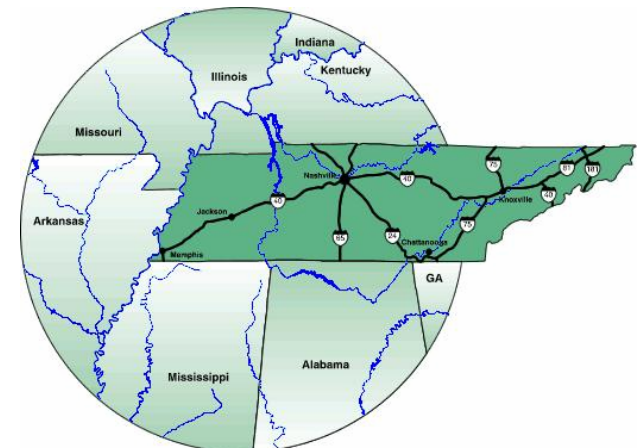
Tennessee Voices for Children

www.tnvoices.org

1315 8th Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37203



Juvenile Court in Tennessee



Jurisdiction of Juvenile Court

- Adjudication of children as dependent, neglected, abused, unruly, or delinquent.
- Determination of custody.
- Termination of parental rights.
- Commitment of children to the custody of the Tennessee Department of Children's Services.
- Establishment of parentage and resulting child support orders and enforcement.
- Establishing visitation for non-custodial parents.
- Enforcement of the compulsory school attendance laws.
- Ordering of treatment, evaluation, and/or commitment of mentally retarded and/or mentally ill children.
- Removal of the age restrictions on a minor's application for a marriage license.
- Giving of judicial consent to a minor's employment or enlistment in the armed services if law requires such consent.
- Giving of judicial consent to the medical treatment of a child when his/her parents or guardians are unable to do so.
- Judicial authorization of an abortion without parental consent.
- Adjudication of alleged traffic violations by persons under the age of eighteen.
- Transfer of serious delinquency cases to criminal court for trial as adults.

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 37-1-159, the juvenile court is a court of record. It may enforce its orders in any way in which a court of equity may enforce its orders and decrees, including by imprisonment and by fine for contempt.



Judges with Juvenile Court Jurisdiction hear cases concerning:



Delinquency



Neglect



Parentage

(Child Custody, Visitation, Establishment of Parentage and Child Support)



Status Offenses

(Runaway, Truancy, Curfew, and Unruly behavior)

Delinquency Referrals

An Act committed by a juvenile that, if committed by an adult, would require prosecution in a criminal court. Because the act is committed by a juvenile, it falls within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court. Delinquent acts include crimes against persons, crimes against property, drug offenses, and crimes against public order.

Neglect and Dependency Cases

Those cases covering neglect or inadequate care on the part of parents or guardians, such as abandonment or desertion; abuse or cruel treatment; improper or inadequate conditions in the home; and insufficient care or support resulting from death, absence, or physical or mental incapacity of parents.

Parentage

Cases that include child custody (physical custody of the child), visitation, child support, and establishment of parentage (hearing to determine who is the father of a child).

Status Offenses

Status offenses include acts or types of conduct that are offenses only when committed or engaged in by a juvenile and that can be adjudicated only by a juvenile court. These include runaway, truancy, unruly or ungovernable behavior and violation of curfew.

Other Cases and Special Procedures

Cases needing judicial reviews, administrative reviews and state mandated timely foster care reviews. Hearings on violation of pretrial diversion and violation of informal adjustment are also held.

Juvenile: Youth who are seventeen (17) years of age or younger.